1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

415 of a river mussel (fig. 133). These mussel shell spoons are seldom as large as the specimen here reproduced, which has a length of 14 cm.

I have seen neither food dishes nor spoons, made of wood, among the Choroti, but nowadays, at least, such are used by them.[1]

285 415 Among the Choroti I saw only one single piece of basket work (fig. 134). It consists of a small basket of the same shape as a kind of pot, which is common in the Chaco (see cooking pot in fig. 192), and it is probably only a direct copy, made in sport, of a clay pot; otherwise, basketry is unknown to the Choroti, and it is therefore probable that the object in question has either found its way to these Indians from the Chiriguano, or that some Choroti, having seen basket-weaving in a Chiriguano village at some passing visit, subsequently has attempted to produce, some similar work himself. It should be noted that the weaving technique in the basket here reproduced is the same as the one used by the Chiriguano.

Fig. 133. Spoon, consisting of a mussel-shell. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. 1/2. Riksm. 03. 3. 107.

[7]

286 415 The Choroti keep no inconsiderable part of their goods and chattels in large, nearly oval, knitted bags of caraguatá yarn (figs. 135 and 136). These bags are especially useful when the tribe is journeying or migrating. They are carried by the women in such a way that the tape or string within the ends of the bag is placed across the forehead, whilst the bag rests against the carrier's back. The carrying cord over the forehead keeps the bag from slipping down the back. For carrying water pitchers and other vessels of earthenware or calabash, the Choroti use carrying nets. On page 118 I have described the way in which these are used.

[285]

[482]

Fig. 134. Basket, Choroti(?). Gran Chaco. Bolivia. 1/2. Riksm. 03. 3. 144.

For everyday use the men have a kind of

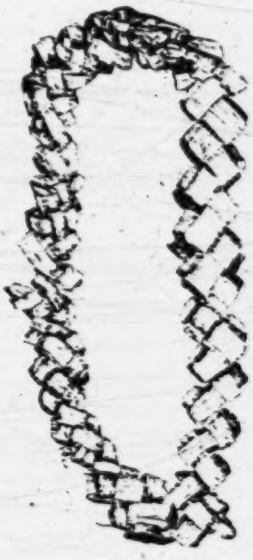
[1] Nordenskiöld (11), pp. 86 ff.

G 285 353 /462 cont /

serve as amulets, and in any case, as ornaments. (Roth, pp. 497-499. Figs. 241-244 and p. 270; Koch-Grünberg, 2, Vol. II, p. 244.) In the same way the Chiriguano Indians decorate their huts with these figures, which they take care to have blessed. Exactly as in Europe they keep palm branches as lucky charms. Rosen (1, p. 61, Fig. 51) publishes a similar straw amusement which he found among the Choroti and which was pointed out to him as an ornament worn on the forehead. This explorer suspects the exactitude of this information and supposes that a ritual object is concerned. In reality, it is only a "flower," which the Choroti described by Rosen probably received or bought in some Chiriguano mission. It is enough to compare the figure of it that he gives us and ours in order to be convinced of this.

C 285 353 778 789

Ci 114 285 301



A 285 301

Fig 119. Wreath of plaited palm leaves (amusement or ornament?). Ashluslay. Prov.: Estero Patiño. (1/4 nat. size.)

A C Ci 285 171

Figures made of palm leaves are not, however, unknown to the other Indians of the Chaco. The Ashluslay sold me a diadem braided according to this principle (Fig. 119) and Rosen (1 Fig. 44, p. 48) reproduces an identical head-ornament which he bought from a Choroti tribe.